CLAIMS

1-27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method, comprising:

establishing, within a global operating system environment provided by a kernel instance, a first non-global zone which serves as a first virtual platform for supporting and isolating user processes, wherein the first non-global zone has a first zone identifier associated therewith, and wherein the first non-global zone is established and exists without requiring any user processes to be running therein;

establishing, within said global operating system environment, a second non-global zone which serves as a second virtual platform for supporting and isolating user processes, wherein the second non-global zone has a second zone identifier associated therewith, and wherein the second non-global zone is established and exists without requiring any user processes to be running therein;

executing a first set of one or more user processes within the first non-global zone[[,]] ~~wherein each user process in the first set of user processes has the first zone identifier associated therewith~~;

executing a second set of one or more user processes within the second non-global zone[[,]] ~~wherein each user process in the second set of user processes has the second zone identifier associated therewith~~; and

isolating the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes within the first non-global zone and the second set of <u>one or more</u> user processes within the second non-global zone such that the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes cannot access processes in the second non-global

zone and the second set of <u>one or more</u> user processes cannot access processes in the first non-global zone.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the kernel instance provides services that are invoked by the first set of user processes, and wherein the services are invoked by the first set of user processes through the first virtual platform.

30-31. Canceled

32.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28,

 wherein a first set of resources are associated with the first non-global zone and a second set of resources are associated with the second non-global zone;

 wherein the first set of resources are accessed by the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes through the first virtual platform and the second set of resources are accessed by the second set of <u>one or more</u> user processes through the second virtual platform; and

 wherein the first set of resources and the second set of resources each include one or more resources from the group consisting of a network interface, a communications interface, a file system, a system console, a DASD address, and an operating system service process.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein isolating the first set of user processes within the first non-global zone and the second set of user processes within the second non-global zone further comprises:

preventing the first set of user processes from accessing the second set of resources associated with the second non-global zone; and

preventing the second set of user processes from accessing the first set of resources associated with the first non-global zone.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein executing the first set of user processes within the first non-global zone causes a first application environment to be established within the first non-global zone, and wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a command to halt the first non-global zone;

in response to the command to halt the first non-global zone:

terminating all user processes executing within the first non-global zone, thereby terminating the first application environment; and

disassociating the first set of resources from the first non-global zone;

wherein the second non-global zone is not affected by the command to halt the first non-global zone.

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein executing the first set of user processes within the first non-global zone causes a first application environment to be established within the first non-global zone, and wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a command to halt the first non-global zone;

in response to the command to halt the first non-global zone:

terminating all user processes executing within the first non-global zone, thereby terminating the first application environment; and

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performing one or more tasks from the group consisting of stopping a

scheduler process, unmounting one or more file systems, closing one

or more network interfaces, and removing configurations for devices

associated with the first non-global zone;

wherein the second non-global zone is not affected by the command to halt the first

non-global zone.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

allowing a first administrator to manage processes and resources within the first non-

global zone, wherein the first administrator is not allowed to manage processes and resources

within the second non-global zone; and

allowing a second administrator to manage processes and resources within the second

non-global zone, wherein the second administrator is not allowed to manage processes and

resources within the first non-global zone.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein establishing the first non-

global zone comprises:

accessing configuration information associated with the first non-global zone;

installing files and directories necessary for the first non-global zone to function; and

readying the first non-global zone by performing one or more tasks from the group

consisting of assigning the first zone identifier, starting a scheduler process, establishing one

or more network interfaces, mounting one or more file systems, initializing a system console,

and configuring one or more devices;

wherein readying the first non-global zone does not include executing user processes within the first non-global zone.

38.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the configuration information comprises one or more parameters from the group consisting of a zone name, a path to a root directory for the first non-global zone, specification of one or more file systems to be mounted when the first non-global zone is ~~readied~~ <u>created</u>, specification of one or more network interfaces, specification of one or more devices to be configured when the first non-global zone is ~~readied~~ <u>created</u>, and specification of resource controls to be imposed on the first non-global zone.

39.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein executing the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes within the first non-global zone comprises:

    executing an ~~initializer~~ <u>initialization</u> process; and

    initializing, by the ~~initializer~~ <u>initialization</u> process, execution of the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes.

40.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium storing one or more sets of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

    establishing, within a global operating system environment provided by a kernel instance, a first non-global zone which serves as a first virtual platform for supporting and isolating user processes, wherein the first non-global zone has a first zone identifier

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associated therewith, and wherein the first non-global zone is established and exists without requiring any user processes to be running therein;

establishing, within said global operating system environment, a second non-global zone which serves as a second virtual platform for supporting and isolating user processes, wherein the second non-global zone has a second zone identifier associated therewith, and wherein the second non-global zone is established and exists without requiring any user processes to be running therein;

executing a first set of one or more user processes within the first non-global zone[[,]] ~~wherein each user process in the first set of user processes has the first zone identifier associated therewith~~;

executing a second set of one or more user processes within the second non-global zone[[,]] ~~wherein each user process in the second set of user processes has the second zone identifier associated therewith~~; and

isolating the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes within the first non-global zone and the second set of <u>one or more</u> user processes within the second non-global zone such that the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes cannot access processes in the second non-global zone and the second set of <u>one or more</u> user processes cannot access processes in the first non-global zone.

41.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein the kernel instance provides services that are invoked by the first set of user processes, and wherein the services are invoked by the first set of user processes through the first virtual platform.

42-43. Canceled

44.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 40,

wherein a first set of resources are associated with the first non-global zone and a

second set of resources are associated with the second non-global zone;

wherein the first set of resources are accessed by the first set of <u>one or more</u> user

processes through the first virtual platform and the second set of resources are accessed by

the second set of <u>one or more</u> user processes through the second virtual platform; and

wherein the first set of resources and the second set of resources each include one or

more resources from the group consisting of a network interface, a communications interface,

a file system, a system console, a DASD address, and an operating system service process.

45.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 44, wherein

isolating the first set of user processes within the first non-global zone and the second set of

user processes within the second non-global zone further comprises:

preventing the first set of user processes from accessing the second set of resources

associated with the second non-global zone; and

preventing the second set of user processes from accessing the first set of resources

associated with the first non-global zone.

46.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 44, wherein

executing the first set of user processes within the first non-global zone causes a first

application environment to be established within the first non-global zone, and wherein the machine-readable storage medium further stores one or more sets of instructions for causing the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving a command to halt the first non-global zone;

in response to the command to halt the first non-global zone:

terminating all user processes executing within the first non-global zone, thereby terminating the first application environment; and

disassociating the first set of resources from the first non-global zone;

wherein the second non-global zone is not affected by the command to halt the first non-global zone.

47.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 44, wherein executing the first set of user processes within the first non-global zone causes a first application environment to be established within the first non-global zone, and wherein the machine-readable storage medium further stores one or more sets of instructions for causing the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving a command to halt the first non-global zone;

in response to the command to halt the first non-global zone:

terminating all user processes executing within the first non-global zone, thereby terminating the first application environment; and

performing one or more tasks from the group consisting of stopping a scheduler process, unmounting one or more file systems, closing one

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or more network interfaces, and removing configurations for devices associated with the first non-global zone;

wherein the second non-global zone is not affected by the command to halt the first non-global zone.

48.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein the machine-readable storage medium further stores one or more sets of instructions for causing the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

allowing a first administrator to manage processes and resources within the first non-global zone, wherein the first administrator is not allowed to manage processes and resources within the second non-global zone; and

allowing a second administrator to manage processes and resources within the second non-global zone, wherein the second administrator is not allowed to manage processes and resources within the first non-global zone.

49.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein establishing the first non-global zone comprises:

accessing configuration information associated with the first non-global zone;

installing files and directories necessary for the first non-global zone to function; and

readying the first non-global zone by performing one or more tasks from the group consisting of assigning the first zone identifier, starting a scheduler process, establishing one or more network interfaces, mounting one or more file systems, initializing a system console, and configuring one or more devices;

wherein readying the first non-global zone does not include executing user processes within the first non-global zone.

50.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 49, wherein the configuration information comprises one or more parameters from the group consisting of a zone name, a path to a root directory for the first non-global zone, specification of one or more file systems to be mounted when the first non-global zone is ~~readied~~ created, specification of one or more network interfaces, specification of one or more devices to be configured when the first non-global zone is ~~readied~~ created, and specification of resource controls to be imposed on the first non-global zone.

51.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein executing the first set of user processes within the first non-global zone comprises:

executing an initializer process; and

initializing, by the initializer process, execution of the first set of user processes.

52.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for establishing, within a global operating system environment provided by a kernel instance, a first non-global zone which serves as a first virtual platform for supporting and isolating user processes, wherein the first non-global zone has a first zone identifier associated therewith, and wherein the first non-global zone is established and exists without requiring any user processes to be running therein;

means for establishing, within said global operating system environment, a second non-global zone which serves as a second virtual platform for supporting and isolating user processes, wherein the second non-global zone has a second zone identifier associated therewith, and wherein the second non-global zone is established and exists without requiring any user processes to be running therein;

means for executing a first set of one or more user processes within the first non-global zone[[,]] ~~wherein each user process in the first set of user processes has the first zone identifier associated therewith~~;

means for executing a second set of one or more user processes within the second non-global zone[[,]] ~~wherein each user process in the second set of user processes has the second zone identifier associated therewith~~; and

means for isolating the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes within the first non-global zone and the second set of <u>one or more</u> user processes within the second non-global zone such that the first set of <u>one or more</u> user processes cannot access processes in the second non-global zone and the second set of <u>one or more</u> user processes cannot access processes in the first non-global zone.

53-54. Canceled

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